

Great Sand Lakes Association Annual Meeting
June 30 2018 – 10:30 a.m.
(Subject to approval at the June 2019 Annual Meeting)

The Annual Meeting of the Great Sand Lakes Association was held on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at the Harwich Community Center.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Jim Robichaud, GSLA President.

Jim introduced the members of the Board who were present at the meeting: Patsy Lightbown, Vice President; Dave Callaghan, Treasurer; Judy Adams, Clerk; Margaret Fallon, Kathy Lydon, George Myers, Ellen O'Connell, and Marian Piro.

Voting rules

Jim explained that, according to the GSLA by-laws, each household has two votes at the annual meeting.

Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting

The Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Callaghan presented the Treasurer's report and copies were made available to those in attendance. He noted that our current cash balance is \$14,099.

Membership Report

Jim noted that our current membership is 210 (at last year's annual meeting it was 212). He encouraged the members to encourage their neighbors who are not members to join as their dues provide the income needed for capital improvements, insurance, and expenses. He noted that there are a total of 274 households in the GSLA area. He pointed out that the focus is on our swimmable ponds, fixing the stairs and fences, etc. and that we do much of the work ourselves in order to minimize expenses. He thanked those who participated in the annual beach cleanup and noted that over \$1000 was saved in landscaping costs.

In connection with our public safety issues, Staci Robichaud met with Police Chief David Guillemette and traffic sergeant Aram Goshgarian to discuss speed limit and traffic volume on Queen Anne Road. A traffic study in late August 2017 showed that 3200 cars per day travel on Queen Anne Road in the area of Vacation Lane. Chief Guillemette acknowledged that the multiple speed zones on a short stretch of Queen Anne Road are confusing. It was suggested that 35 mph for the stretch from the traffic lights at Route 124 to the Route 39 rotary would be an acceptable speed limit. He promised to look into it further and pointed out that eventually it is the Massachusetts government that has the power to change the speed limits.

Jim encouraged members to express their concerns/direct any relevant questions to the Harwich Police Department, using their website.

The question of the use of drones was raised and whether they are a public safety issue. Drones are illegal over National Seashore beaches, but state and local rules are not as clear. Jim encouraged those affected to let the Town of Harwich know of any concerns.

Jim also encouraged the members to read the 14-page report, *Protecting our Water Resources Project*, which can be found on the GSLA website.

Speaker: Heinz Proft – Assistant Harbormaster and Natural Resources Director for the Town of Harwich.

Heinz noted that the record high water levels of the ponds have gone down a little and that the current warm dry weather will help with further evaporation. It was observed that the water testing that Barnstable County normally does from the edge of the beach on the spit between Lakeside Terrace and Paradise Path was done this year in the water that currently connects John Joseph and Bucks Ponds. Tony Piro confirmed that the level of e-coli was higher there than at Association Beach or Vacation Lane, but the levels are completely safe--far below any number that could cause concern.

In discussing the planning for the sewerage of parts of Harwich in coming years, it was confirmed that the area north of Queen Anne Road is part of "Phase 8" of the plan, meaning that sewers in that area are still many years away. This is of concern to us because the area north of Queen Anne Road is the source of potential phosphorus contamination for the Great Sand Lakes ponds. It was acknowledged that the sewer project is primarily intended to stop the flow of nitrogen toward Nantucket Sound and that the phosphorus contamination that threatens fresh water ponds is a small part of the plan.

George Myers mentioned that the ponds (John Joseph and Bucks) are now at risk due to the presence of phosphorus which inevitably leaches from septic systems. The material drains from north to south and the soil in between removes the phosphates as they move towards the ponds. The soil has reached its capacity to take phosphates out. George argued that it is essential to sewer along Queen Anne Road so no more phosphorus goes into the ponds or is it too late. Jim will bring these concerns to Heinz's attention directly and urged GSLA members to make their concerns known to the Town.

Introduction of New GSLA members. Jim noted the names of new homeowners who have joined the GSLA since the last annual meeting.

New owners having purchased since the last owner's meeting (note: every new owner joined!)

PurchaseDate	Owners	Address
07-Jul-17	Scott Sawin	69 Clearwater Drive
20-Jul-17	Declan Breslin	9 Mockingbird Lane
21-Jul-17	Kurt & Lynne Bimmler	713 Queen Anne Road
09-Aug-17	Alyce Mundy	200 John Joseph Road
22-Aug-17	Dr. Bonnie Scott	158 Clearwater Drive
31-Aug-17	Jerry & Patty Facey	8 Whippoorwill Lane
11-Sep-17	Laecio DeOliveira & Anna Nazarenko	3 Rainbow Way
27-Sep-17	Chris Briggs & Bill McElroy	2 Restabit Road
06-Nov-17	Robert Clinton & Christi Odiaga	14 Rainbow Way
07-Nov-17	Scott & Donna Bard	79 Clearwater Drive
15-Dec-17	Howard Wheeler & Joan Nelson	87 Clearwater Drive

Jim recognized and thanked Bob Clinton who redesigned the GSLA website.

Deceased Members: Jim read the names of the GSLA members who died in the past year. A moment of silence honored them:

Margie Brooks
Judy Corkum
Barbara Forbes
John Preston

Old Business:

Beach Committee. Dave noted that each Great Sand Lakes household should have received a parking permit to be displayed on the car dashboard when parking at the GSLA beach on Clearwater. When renting, homeowners should be sure to give it to their tenants. Dave suggested that if all the parking spaces are filled, it is safest if cars park on the beach side and do not block driveways.

For information on the water quality report go to the GSLA-Harwich.org website.

New Business:

Boat storage is very minimal due to the high water levels. Dave encouraged everyone who has a boat to register it so it can be identified if it floats away, which many boats did this spring and some are still under water.

A pine tree was lost on Association beach and several other trees on other beaches are at risk of drowning before the water recedes. Alternatives for replacing some of the trees which provide shade for beachgoers will be reviewed this fall.

Election of Board of Directors.

The proposed slate for 3-year terms expiring 2021 was presented: Margaret Fallon, Marian Piro, and Dave Callaghan were elected by acclamation.

Election of Treasurer and Clerk.

Dave Callaghan was elected to continue serving as Treasurer; Judy Adams was elected to continue serving as Clerk by acclamation.

There was a brief discussion of whether the GSLA website might include a list of existing rental properties in the area. This possibility will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

In response to a question about whether boat racks could be used to reduce the overcrowding of boats on the beach, there was a discussion of the safety of high racks for stacking. It was suggested that there are lower racks (three boats high) that might be considered instead. Jim agreed to bring this up at the next Board meeting.

Adjournment:

Jim adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Judy C. Adams
Clerk